generating a touch input, because the selected current mode is determined according to the movement direction of the touch area **12**.

[0033] FIGS. **2**A and **2**B are display screens illustrating a method of displaying information according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. This exemplary embodiment corresponds to the first mode selection method.

[0034] Referring to FIG. **2**A, mode indication icons (for example, a panning mode icon **21** and a zoom mode icon **22**) are displayed at the left side of the touch screen **10**, and entered by selection of the corresponding mode indication icon by the user. For example, if the panning mode icon **21** is selected as shown in FIG. **2**A, the mobile terminal enters a panning mode. At this moment, the mode indication icon selected by the user disappears from the touch screen **10**.

[0035] When the user again touches the touch screen **10**, the selected mode indication icon reappears at the side of the touch screen **10**, and the current mode icon **15** indicating a panning mode is displayed, as shown in FIG. **2**B. Operations of detecting a touch input, extracting an uppermost coordinate of the touch area **12**, and displaying a current mode icon **15** maintaining a distance from the touch area **12** are performed as previously described in relation to FIGS. **1**A to **1**C. In the panning mode, the user may drag the finger **11** to move the touch area **12** displayed on the touch screen **10** in a desired direction. The current mode icon **15** is continuously displayed above the touch area **12** following the movement of the touch area **12**. As the location of the touch area **12** changes, the mobile terminal repeats the operations of detecting a touch input and extracting an uppermost coordinate of the touch area **12**, and the location of the current mode icon **15** changes accordingly. Technology for moving an image displayed on a touch screen corresponding to movement of a touch area is well known in the art, and thereby is omitted here.

[0036] If the user selects a zoom mode icon **22**, the mobile terminal enters a zoom in/out mode. Subsequently, if the user touches the touch screen **10**, a zoom mode icon (not shown) is displayed above the touch area **12**, and if the user drags a finger while in the zoom in/out mode, an image displayed on the touch screen **10** is enlarged or reduced. The extent of enlargement or reduction is determined by a displacement value of the touch area **12** (e.g. a distance and a direction of finger movement). The extent of enlargement or reduction may be displayed in a numeral form. With the movement of the touch area **12**, the location of the current mode icon **15** changes accordingly.

[0037] FIGS. **3**A to **3**D are display screens illustrating a method of displaying information according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. This exemplary embodiment corresponds to the second mode selection method.

[0038] Referring to FIG. **3**A, mode indication icons (for example, a zoom mode icon **31** and a brightness control mode icon **32**) are displayed at the left side of the touch screen **10**. In contrast to the mode indication icons **21** and **22** in the exemplary embodiment of FIGS. **2**A and **2**B, the mode indication icons **31** and **32** are not provided for a user selection, and simply indicate which mode is selected when the touch area **12** moves in a specific direction. In the example, the zoom mode icon **31** is assigned to the vertical direction and the brightness control mode icon **32** is assigned to the horizontal direction. If a touch input is generated, the current mode icon **15** is not displayed on the touch screen **10**. The current mode icon **15** appears only when the touch area **12** starts to move in any direction.

[0039] If the user touches the touch screen **10** and drags the finger **11** as shown in FIG. **3**B, the current mode icon **15** indicating a brightness control mode is displayed at the right side of the touch area **12**. Additionally, a displacement value **33** indicating the extent of a brightness control is displayed beside the current mode icon **15**. In the brightness control mode, a display location of the current mode icon **15** may vary according to the movement direction of the touch area **12**. For example, the current mode icon **15** is displayed at the right side of the touch area **12** when the touch area **12** moves rightwards, and the current mode icon **15** is displayed at the left side of the touch area **12** when the touch area **12** moves leftwards.

[0040] If the user drags the finger **11** upwards after touching the touch screen **10**, as shown in FIG. **3**C, the current mode icon **15** indicating a zoom in/out mode is displayed above the touch area **12**, and a numerical value of the displacement value **33** indicating an extent of enlargement and reduction is displayed beside the current mode icon **15**. In the zoom in/out mode, the shape of the current mode icon **15** may vary according to the movement direction of the touch area. For example, if the touch area **12** moves upwards, the shape of the current mode icon **15** may change to a symbol '+' indicating enlargement, and if the touch area **12** moves downwards, the shape of the current mode icon **15** may change to a symbol '−' indicating reduction.

[0041] As described above, the current mode is determined according to the movement direction of the touch area **12**. The current mode is predetermined according to each movement direction, and the corresponding movement direction is displayed at an edge of the mode indication icons **31** and **32** located at the left side of the touch screen **10**. The movement direction of the touch area **12** may be determined by identifying which of a vertical displacement and a horizontal displacement is greater. The displacement is represented as an absolute value regardless of an increasing rate or a decreasing rate of the displacement. In the case that the vertical displacement and the horizontal displacement have the same value at the beginning of movement, the current mode is not displayed when the touch area is first moved, but instead the current mode is determined and displayed at the completion of the touch movement.

[0042] The displacement value **33** displayed beside the current mode icon **15** has a function of indicating a maximum value and a minimum value. For example, while zooming in the touch screen **10** by moving the finger **11** upwards, as shown in FIG. **3**C, if the displacement value **33** reaches the maximum value of zooming in, the color of the displacement value **33** changes to red to indicate that further enlargement of an image is not possible. When the maximum or minimum value is reached, the displacement value **33** does not change even if the touch area **12** moves further in the same movement direction.

[0043] In an exemplary implementation, a plurality of functions in different modes may be executed by changing the movement direction of the finger **11** continuously, as shown in FIG. **3**D. In the implementation, the finger **11** starts from a first touch area **12***a* and moves leftward to a second touch area **12***b*, then moves to a third touch area **12***c*, and finally moves leftward to a fourth touch area **12***d*.

[0044] As the finger **11** moves leftwards from the first touch area **12***a* to the second touch area **12***b*, brightness control